(b) whether his Ministry has already sent teams of experts to all 12 affected States in the month of August and the teams have already submitted their assessment;

(c) if so, whether affected States have released a sum of Rs. 1600 crores without going into the feedback reports; and

(d) if so, to what extent the financial help provided to the States has helped in tackling the drought in the States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The quantum of food subsidy depends on the Central Issue Price, procurement of food grains, off take under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), stock of foodgrains in central pool and other welfare schemes. During 2008-09, an amount of Rs.43668.08 crore was released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and De-Centralized Procurement (DCP) States. For BE 2009-10, a provision of Rs.52145.44 crore has been made towards food subsidy for FCI and DCP States.

(b) Yes, Sir. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) visited the 12 drought affected States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, during August to November, 2009 for assessment of the drought situation and recommendations on assistance required from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

(c) Pending assistance approved from NCCF, to meet immediate contingencies in the wake of natural calamities including drought, the State Governments have funds allotted under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. In the wake of drought 2009-10, to enable the affected States to take effective and timely mitigating measures, the Central Government released the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs.1990.3275 crore to the 12 drought affected States. The Central Government has so far considered and approved assistance relating to 10 States (except Andhra Pradesh and Assam). The proposals relating to Andhra Pradesh and Assam are under consideration.

(d) The release from CRF helped the affected States in providing immediate relief to the distressed population pending a final decision on the recommendations of the IMCTs.

Ceiling on BPL beneficiaries under National Food Security Bill

*24. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has requested State Governments to put a ceiling on the number of BPL beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System for the purpose of National Food Security Bill; and

(b) if so, the response from State Governments alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is focused on the poor. Allocation of foodgrains to States and Union Territories under TPDS are made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. This ceiling on the number of BPL families is based on 1993-94 poverty estimates and March 2000 population estimates. For the proposed National Food Security Act, details of the BPL families to be covered in the States and Union Territories are yet to be finalised.

Drip and sprinkler irrigation

*25. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drip and sprinkler irrigation is rapidly gaining ground in the country;

(b) if so, the number of hectares covered under drip irrigation in the State of West Bengal, district-wise; and

(c) the details of Central subsidy provided to farmers who adopted drip irrigation in the State of West Bengal in the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. More than 15.93 lakh hectares have been covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation since its inception in January 2006.

(b) An area of 117.18 ha. has been covered under drip irrigation in the State of West Bengal under the Scheme. District-wise details are enclosed as Statement (*see* below).

(c) An amount of Rs.119.33 lakh was provided in 2006-07 as central share of subsidy for the implementation of drip irrigation in the State of West Bengal out of which an amount of only Rs.25.89 lakhs had been utilized upto October, 2009.

Statement

Details of district-wise area covered under drip irrigation in the State of West Bengals on 31.10.2009

Sl.No.	District	Area covered under drip system (ha.)
1	Bankura	26.93
2	Burdwan	21.00
3	Dakshin Dinajpur	1.00
4	Uttar Dinajpur	20.00
5	Jalpaiguri	2.00
6	Malda	18.00
7	Paschim Medinipur	22.00
8	Purba Medinipur	2.00
9	Purulia	3.00
10	South 24-Parganas	1.25
	TOTAL :	117.18